

## IDENTIFICATION OF microRNAS AND THEIR TARGETS

### Abstract of the Disclosure

The present invention relates to methods for identifying miRNAs and their  
5 targets *in vivo* and *in vitro* applicable to situations in which one or both of the sequences  
of the miRNA and the target nucleic acid is unknown. Further, the method applies to  
situations in which the miRNA/target interaction is stable or unstable; unstable reactions  
can be stabilized by the addition of crosslinking agents. The present invention also  
provides methods of modulating the expression of a target gene in a cell by modulating  
10 the activity of an miRNA in the cell that targets the gene.